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GOVERNOR BREDESEN RELEASES STATE CONTRACTS FORECAST FORECAST CALENDAR SHOWS STATEWIDE PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Nashville, Tenn. – Governor Phil Bredesen today joined General Services Commissioner Gwendolyn Sims Davis to announce the statewide release of its "Upcoming Procurement Opportunities of Acquisition Plans," a forecast calendar listing every contract the State expects to enter this Fiscal Year, ending June 30.

The Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise (Go-DBE), a division of the Department of General Services, today began statewide distribution of the forecast calendar. Under Bredesen's leadership, it has expanded to include all types of contracts with every arm of state government.

"I am committed to giving every business in Tennessee an equal opportunity to do business with the State – from the franchise in downtown Nashville to the family-owned business in downtown Lawrenceburg," Bredesen said. "I am also committed to opening up the entire procurement process to business owners across Tennessee. The expansion of this calendar, and our efforts to maximize its availability, are part of this commitment."

While state law requires that government publicize upcoming durable goods contracts with the Department of General Services, Bredesen's calendar shows forecast contracts of all types with every state agency, such as departments, parks and universities. Additionally, Go-DBE will share the calendar with the State Library and Archives, public libraries and minority business centers across the state. The calendar is also available online, www.tennessee.gov/diversity.

While Go-DBE's central mission is to support diversity (small, minority-owned and womenowned) businesses, the forecast calendar is designed to help every business owner in Tennessee, Davis said.

"We want to empower all businesses – regardless of status – with the information they need to compete for state contracts," Davis said. "This is part of our work to fulfill a mandate that Governor Bredesen issued when he took office – making the procurement process open, fair and accessible to every business in Tennessee."

Bredesen established Go-DBE in December 2003 to encourage more interaction between the State and diversity businesses. For more information about Go-DBE, visit www.tennessee.gov/diversity.

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